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Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 00132 080948Z

15
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /018 W
---------- 089500
R 080350Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0918

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0132

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (NOOTER, ROBERT H.)
SUBJ: BIO SKETCHES FOR NOOTER VISIT: MINISTER OF COMMERCE
JALALLAR

REF: KABUL 8102

FOR NEA/PAB SCHIFFERDECKER

1. MOHAMMAD KHAN JALALLAR, MINISTER OF FINANCE UNDER THE SHAFIQ GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE 1973 COUP, WAS ALLOWED TO COOL HIS HEELS AT HOME FOR FIVE MONTHS AND THEN WAS BROUGHT INTO PRESIDENT DAOUD'S CABINET IN JANUARY 1974 AS MINISTER OF COMMERCE.

2. THE 40-YEAR OLD JALALLAR IS OF UZBEK (TURKOMAN) ORIGIN, A MINORITY OF ONE IN DAOUD'S PREDOMINANTLY PASHTUN CABINET AND GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE OF HIS ETHNIC BACKGROUND AND LACK OF TRIBAL/FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS ON WHICH OTHERHBCVERNMENT FIGURES OFTEN RELY, JALALLAR HAS STATED HIS PERFORMANCE MUST AT ALL TIMES BE ABOVE REPROACH. HE IS CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY COMPETENT BY GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE BUSINESS FIGURES DESPITE LACK OF A POST-UNIVERSITY DEGREE, AND ANY FOREIGN TRAINING. HIS APPOINTMENT WAS MADE IN PART TO REASSURE AFGHAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY ABOUT DAOUD GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION. HIS STRONG AND EVIDENTLY SUCCESSFUL DESIRE TO APPEAR APOLITICAL WITH A GENUINE CONCERN FOR AFGHAN DEVELOP-MENT HAS ALLOWED HIM TO WORK AND BE ACCEPTED BY THE REPUB-LICAN REGIME AS WELL AS THE FORMER ROYAL GOVERNMENT.
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3. JALALLAR HAS HAD CLOSE CONTACTS WITH EMBASSY AND USAID OFFICIALS IN KABUL FOR MANY YEARS. HIS OUTGOING AND FRIENDLY MANNER ALLOWS HIM TO SOCIALIZE EASILY WITH WESTERNERS. HE IS A PROUD AND SELF-CONFIDENT MAN WHO BY BEING COMPETENT, A HARD WORKER, AND CLEVER HAS OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES OF BEING FROM AN ETHNIC MINORITY IN A SOCIETY WHERE ONE'S TRIBAL CONNECTIONS ARE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.
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